

M.A. Political Science Syllabus

Duration: 2 Years (4 Semesters)

Total Credits (typical): 80–100 credits

Structure: Core courses + Electives/Specialization + Research components + Skill Enhancement

Semester 1 (Foundational Core)

- **Western Political Thought – I** (Plato to Marx: Classical & Modern Thinkers)
- **Indian Political Thought** (Ancient to Modern: Manu, Kautilya, Gandhi, Ambedkar, Savarkar, Nehru, etc.)
- **Comparative Political Analysis** (Approaches, State, Democracy, Federalism, Political Parties, Electoral Systems)
- **International Relations – Theories & Concepts** (Realism, Liberalism, Constructivism, Marxism, Feminism)
- **Research Methodology in Political Science** (Qualitative & Quantitative Methods, Hypothesis, Sampling)
- **Skill Enhancement** (optional/low credit): Academic Writing & Citation Styles

Semester 2 (Core + Emerging Areas)

- **Western Political Thought – II** (20th Century: Gramsci, Arendt, Rawls, Habermas, Foucault, etc.)
- **Indian Government & Politics** (Constitution, Federalism, Parliament, Judiciary, Party System, Electoral Politics)
- **Public Administration – Theories & Concepts** (Classical, Human Relations, New Public Management, Good Governance)
- **International Relations – Issues & Institutions** (Globalization, UN System, Regional Organizations, Global South)
- **Political Economy** (Capitalism, Socialism, Neo-liberalism, Development Theories)
- **Skill Enhancement:** Statistical Tools for Social Sciences / SPSS Basics

Semester 3 (Advanced & Specialization Begins)

Core / Compulsory

- **Political Theory – Contemporary Debates** (Multiculturalism, Post-colonialism, Feminism, Environmentalism, Identity Politics)

- **Indian Foreign Policy** (Determinants, Evolution, Relations with Major Powers, Neighborhood Policy)

Discipline Specific Electives (choose 2–3 from any group or as per university pattern)

- Group A: Indian Politics & Society
 - State Politics in India
 - Social Movements & Politics in India
 - Caste, Religion & Politics
- Group B: International Relations & Global Politics
 - International Political Economy
 - Global Security & Conflict
 - Human Rights & International Law
- Group C: Public Administration & Governance
 - Public Policy Analysis
 - Local Governance & Panchayati Raj
 - E-Governance & Digital India
- Group D: Political Thought & Ideology
 - Marxist Political Theory
 - Feminist Political Theory
 - Gandhian Thought & Praxis

Components

- Seminar / Term Paper
- Research Proposal Preparation (for dissertation)

Semester 4 (Capstone & Specialization)

Core / Compulsory

- **Dissertation / Major Research Project** (Full thesis – data collection, analysis, writing + viva-voce)
- **Contemporary Issues in Political Science** (Seminar-based: Climate Politics, Populism, Digital Democracy, etc.)

Electives (choose 2–3 – continuation or new)

- Comparative Federalism
- South Asian Politics
- Political Sociology
- Gender & Politics
- Environmental Politics & Policy

- Peace & Conflict Studies
- Political Psychology

Components

- Dissertation Viva-Voce & Defense
- Comprehensive Viva (covering entire program)
- Internship / Fieldwork Report (optional in some universities – NGOs, think tanks, government offices)

Common Structure Notes (2026 Trends)

- **Core Focus:** Strong emphasis on political theory (Western + Indian), research skills, and contemporary global/Indian issues.
- **Course Types** (CBCS/NEP): Core Courses, Discipline Specific Electives (DSE), Generic Electives (optional), Skill Enhancement (research tools, writing).
- **Pedagogy:** Lectures + seminars + debates + term papers + dissertation (often 6–9 months research).
- **Assessment:** Theory exams (60–70%) + internals (assignments, seminars) + dissertation (major weightage in Sem 4).
- **Career Path:** Academia (teaching/research), civil services (UPSC/State PSC), policy analysis, journalism, NGOs, international organizations, think tanks.